# We're not all like them

Without trying to justify or vilify those who attended Village Seven Presbyterian Church and disrupted for several minutes the service to make a statement, I would like to comment on some of the reaction.

All news articles reported that this was done by a handful of people. News stories have reported that Ground Zero, the organization of which I am a member, the largest organization in the area involved in the issue, did not participate in and does not choose to follow this type of militancy.

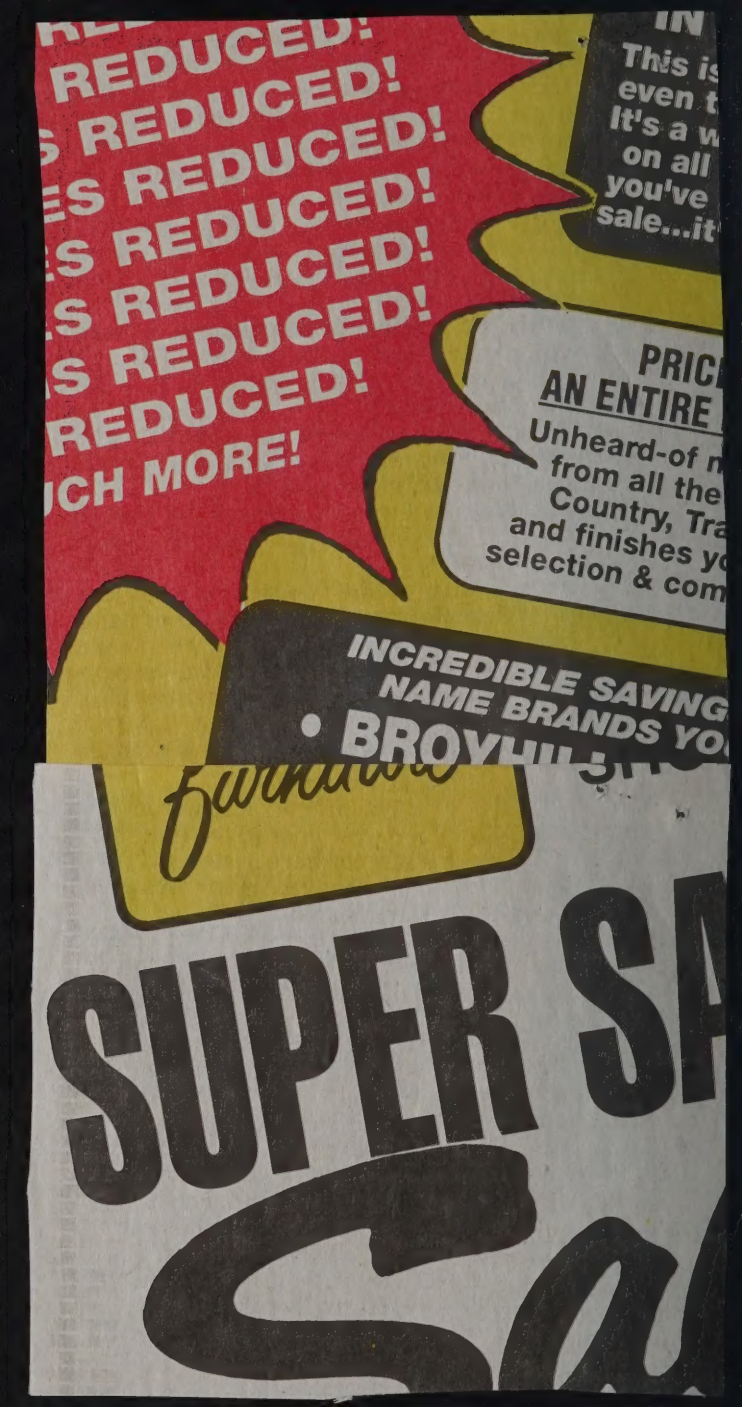
Despite this, I read in "Tell it to the GT" callers who generalize the actions of these few into a stereotype of all gays and lesbians, exactly what was done in the campaign to deny equal rights to gay and lesbian citizens. Ground Zero has already received similar letters attacking all gays and lesbians for this action.

The point is there is an assumption that all gays and lesbians are exactly the same and that we are all exactly the worst possible image one could draw. In fact, gays and lesbians are as diverse as the population itself. To say that we are all one way or the other is the same as saying that all Christians are Waco Wackos, Jonestown extremists, killers at abortion clinics or promote "death by stoning" for incorrigible children, gays and lesbians, adulterers and pagans. We know that while some may be like this, the vast majority are none of these things.

Being homosexual and saying so is no more flaunting one's sexuality than being heterosexual and saying so. The vast majority of those of us who are homosexual never converse one way or the other about it outside of our own sphere, have never flaunted our sexuality and do not have a desire to "force" our views on anyone. All we wish is the right to be who we are without discrimination and without being attacked and vilified as every evil stereotype in the book. However, we cannot counter the false claims and bigotry of those who attack us without identifying who we are.

Finally, I do not remember a public outcry when amplified street preachers appeared at gay and lesbian gatherings and shouted their obscene hate rhetoric throughout the activities. Is not that which is sauce for the goose also sauce for the gander?

— **Franklin Whitworth**
Ground Zero
Colorado Springs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